

RESPONSE TO PETITION

Petition Number: 605, 628
Petition Sponsored by: Mrs Ann-Marie Hermans MP
Directed to: Minister for Planning
Tabled on: 18 and 19 February, 2025
Petition Grievance:

The petition of certain citizens of the State of Victoria draws to the attention of the Legislative Council to the granting of planning permit application PA23/0694 for Veolia Recycling & Recovery Pty Ltd (Veolia) by the City of Casey. The planning permit application is to construct a waste transfer station at 290 Hallam Road, Hampton Park. Planning permission was granted before Councillors had been elected and sworn in, before the rezoning has been approved by the Minister for Planning and while there is current litigation by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) against Veolia for serious breaches.

The proposed facility is within 250 metres of family homes and in the middle of densely populated areas. Residents of surrounding suburbs have not been properly informed, and those who have are extremely concerned about the serious, adverse environmental and social impacts that will result from processing 550,000 tones of putrescible and inert waste per annum. Over 1,000 objections were received but largely ignored by Casey Council and Administrators. On 12 August 2024, the EPA introduced new buffer and separation distance guidelines to protect the health and safety of residents which the City of Casey override with permit conditions.

Petition Action:

The petitioners therefore request that the Legislative Council call on the Government to ensure that a waste transfer station is not constructed in the South-Eastern Metropolitan region by overturning approval of planning permit application PA23/0694, rejecting development license application APP032219, and investigating the processes which have led to the planning permit application being approved by the City of Casey.

Reply:

I thank the Member for sponsoring this petition.

Casey City Council has issued a planning permit for use and development of the site in its role as the responsible authority for the administration and enforcement of the Casey Planning Scheme. Once a council has issued a planning permit, as Minister for Planning I do not have the ability under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* to overturn or vary the decision. The Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal is the appropriate forum to seek a review of this matter.

Any request for an investigation into the council's conduct should be directed to the Victorian Ombudsman or the Local Government Inspectorate.

The Environment Protection Authority is assessing development licence application APP032219. The EPA will carry out the assessment in accordance with the relevant requirements.



Hon Sonya Kilkenny MP
Minister for Planning

7/3/2025